

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 8, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-44 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1, 13, 25, 29, 35, 39, 40, 43, and 44 are independent. In particular, Applicants herein amended pending claims 3-10, 15-19, 23-24, 26-27, 30-32 and 34 and added new claims 35-44 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments add no new subject matter to the present application and serve only to place the present application in better condition for examination. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the rejected pending claims are respectfully requested. It is believed that all grounds for rejection in the Office Action are currently addressed and that the present application is currently in condition for allowance in view of the amendment and the following arguments. Reconsideration of claims 1-44 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Allowance

Applicants wish to express gratitude for the indication given in the Office Action that claims 1-24 are allowed. While Applicants have amended Applicants have amended 3-10, 15-19, 23-24, Applicants respectfully note that the claim amendments would not impact the reasons for allowability given in the Office Action. Furthermore, Applicants note that claims 35-38 closely correspond to previously allowed claims 13, 14, 17, and 18

and should be allowable on similar grounds. Similarly, claims 43-44 closely correspond to allowed claim 1 and should also be allowable on similar grounds.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102(e)

Referring to the Office Action at page 2, claims 25 through 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 20020007411 (Shaked). According to the Office Action, Shaked allegedly discloses all recitations of independent claims 25, 27, and 29. However, as described in greater detail below, Shaked neither teaches nor suggests each and every limitation of independent claims 25, 27, and 29, and their dependent claims. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 25-34 should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 25 relates to an intermediate node for redirecting service requests within a domain of a network, wherein the network comprises a plurality of domains, wherein said intermediate node is connected to an entry node, to a database, and to a plurality of service nodes of said domain. The intermediate node includes a receiving means for receiving a service request from a service request input node, a look-up means for performing, based on a received service request, a look-up in a database for obtaining destination information required for forwarding said service request to a destination, and a sending means for sending said destination information from an intermediate node to said service request input node.

Independent claim 27 from which claim 28 depends, relates to a service node of a domain of a network. The network include multiple domains The service node provides

services for a user terminal associated with the service node. These services are requested by service requests originating from said user terminal, and the service node is connected to an entry node of the domain, to an intermediate node of the domain which redirects service requests within the domain, and to service nodes of the domain.

Independent claim 29, from which claims 32 and 33 depend, relates to a service request input node within a domain of a network. The network includes domains, and the service request input node processes service requests originated from user terminals of the network. The service request input node is connected to an intermediate node of the domain which redirects service requests within a domain, and to service nodes of the domain. The service request input node includes a redirecting control means for controlling a redirecting of a received incoming service request, a transmitting means for transmitting the received incoming service request to an intermediate node for obtaining destination information required for forwarding a service request to a destination, and a forwarding means for forwarding the service request, based on the received destination information, from a service request input node to the destination.

Applicants have carefully reviewed Shaked and respectfully submit that each of the above-noted independent claims recites subject matter that is not taught or disclosed by Shaked.

Shaked generally discloses automatically acquiring the identity of a user requesting service from a service provider is provided. The service provider sends an identification request to a network access provider (NAP), the NAP including a NAP identification module and an access system in communication with the NAP

identification module and the NAP ID module extracting information associated with the user, verifying the network address of the user and forwarding the information associated with the user to the service provider. The NAP identification module includes a controller and an address extractor in communication with the controller.

In particular, Shaked discloses a system to automatically identify an anonymous requesting user, for example, by accessing stored biographical data associated with the user's network address. In this way, the requesting user can be authenticated so that any requested services may be correctly administered. In contrast, the recited embodiments of the present invention relate to analyzing a service request and redirecting a service request to an appropriate service provider. Consequently, and the service requestor identification in Shaked in no way relates to this technical challenge addressed the present application.

Shaked neither teaches nor suggest every limitation of claim 25. In particular, Shaked does not disclose the recitations from claims 25 that of "look-up means for performing, based on a received service request, a look-up in a database for obtaining **destination** information required for forwarding said service request to a destination; and sending means for sending **said destination information from an intermediate node to said service request input node.**" Instead, as described above, Shaked discloses that after the service provider receives a service request, the service provider forwards the request to a node that uses a lookup table 22 to identify requestor **source information** and returns the source information **to a service provider** as needed to authenticate the service requester. For example, FIG 3A referenced in the Office Action discloses

identifying a requesting user after the request is received by the service provider, identifying the user, and forwarding this identifying information to the service provider. Thus, Shaked does not obtain destination information or use this destination information to send the service request to the appropriate service request input node, as recited in claim 25.

For at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 25 in view of Shaked is improper and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 25 are respectfully requested. Likewise, new claim 39, which correspond to claim 25, should be allowed on a similar basis. Claim 26 that depends from claim 39 should be also allowable as depending from allowable claim 39. Consideration and allowance of claims 26 and 39 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action further alleged that Shaked discloses all recitations of claim 27. For similar reasons as presented above in the discussion of claim 25, Applicants likewise urge that the rejection of claim 27 is also traversed because Shaked does not disclose every recitation of claim 27. For example, claim 27 recites that “wherein said service node is connected to an entry node of said domain, **to an intermediate node of said domain which redirects service requests within said domain**, and to service nodes of said domain.” As described above, the “intermediate node” of Shaked, as specified in the Office Action, identifies the requesting user and does not perform any functions related to redirecting a service request to an appropriate service provider.

For at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 27 in view of Shaked is improper and should be withdrawn. Likewise, claim 28 that depends from claim 27 is also

allowable as depending from allowable claim 27. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 27-28 are therefore respectfully requested.

The Office Action further alleged that Shaked disclosed all recitations of claim 29. For similar reasons as presented above in the discussion of claims 25 and 27, Applicants likewise urge that the rejection of claim 29 is traversed because Shaked does not disclose every and every recitation of claim 29. For example, claim 29 recites:

redirecting control means for controlling a **redirecting of a received incoming service request**;

transmitting means for transmitting said received incoming service request to an intermediate node for obtaining **destination information required for forwarding a service request to a destination**; and

forwarding means for forwarding said service request, based on said received destination information, from a service request input node to said destination.

As described above, Shaked relates to authenticating a requesting user after a service request is received by a service provider. In this way, Shaked does not disclose redirection of the initial service request to an intermediate node, determination of destination information, or forwarding of the service request to the determined destination, as recited in claim 29.

For at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 29 in view of Shaked is improper and should be withdrawn. Likewise, claims 32-33, that depend from claim 29, are also allowable as depending from an allowable claim. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 29 and 32-33 are respectfully requested. Likewise, new claim 40 that corresponds

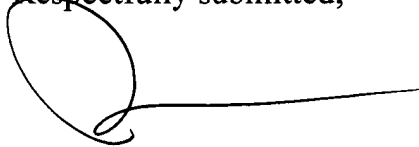
to claim 29 should be allowed on a similar basis. Claims 30-31, 34, and 41-42 that depends from claim 40 should be also allowable as depending from allowable claim 30. Consideration and allowance of claims 30-31, 34, and 40-42 are also respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-44 recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that each of these claims be allowed, and this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long horizontal stroke.

David D. Nelson
Registration No. 47,818

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

DDN/cqc

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Additional Claims Transmittal
Check No. 018094